FSF4U Nom: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**L'emploi du subjonctif**

[Explication tirée du site merveilleux: <http://french.about.com/od/grammar/ss/subjunctive.htm> & du livre “Side-

by-Side French and English Grammar” (Farrell, 2003).]

The subjunctive is the mood that expresses what *may* be true, and is used infrequently in English.

It is nearly always found in dependent clauses introduced by *que*, and the subject of the verb in the main clause is usually different from the subject of the verb in the dependent clause.

Ex. **Je** veux que **tu** viennes ici après l’école.

*In theory*, the subjunctive is used to show that what you are saying is:

-potentially (but not actually) true

-coloured by emotion (which often distorts facts)

-expressing your attitude toward something (rather than the actual fact)

-doubtful, probably non-existent, or not true

*In practice,* there are certain words and expressions that always require the subjunctive, even if they don’t fit completely with the “rules” above.

**1. Verbs and expressions which express someone's will, an order, a need, a piece of advice, or**

**a desire require the subjunctive.**

Ex:

*aimer mieux que*   to like better / to prefer that

*commander que*   to order that

*demander que*   to ask (someone to do something)

*désirer que*   to desire that

*donner l'ordre que*   to order that

*empêcher que\**   to prevent (someone from doing something)

*éviter que\**   to avoid

*exiger que*   to demand that

*il est à souhaiter que*   it is to be hoped that

*il est essentiel que*   it is essential that

*il est important que*   it is important that

*il est naturel que*   it is natural that

*il est nécessaire que*   it is necessary that

*il est normal que*   it is normal that

*il est temps que*   it is time that

*il est urgent que*   it is urgent that

*il faut que*   it is necessary that

*il vaut mieux que*   it is better that

*interdire que*   to forbid that

*s'opposer que*   to oppose that

*ordonner que*   to order that

*permettre que*   to permit that

*préférer que*   to prefer that

*proposer que*   to propose that

*recommander que*   to recommend

*souhaiter que*   to wish that

*suggérer que*   to suggest that

*tenir à ce que*   to insist that

*vouloir que*   to want that

\*These verbs are followed by the *ne* explétif.

**2. Verbs and expressions of emotion or feeling - fear, happiness, anger, regret, surprise, or**

**any other sentiments - require the subjunctive.**

Ex:

*adorer que*   to love that

*aimer que*   to like that

*apprécier que*   to appreciate that

*avoir honte que*   to be ashamed that

*avoir peur que*\*   to be afraid that

*craindre que*\*   to fear that

*déplorer que*   to deplore that

*détester que*   to hate that

*être content que*   to be happy that

*être désolé que*   to be sorry that

*être étonné que*   to be amazed that

*être heureux que*   to be happy that

*être surpris que*   to be surprised that

*être triste que*   to be sad that

*il est bizarre que*   it is odd that

*il est bon que*   it is good that

*il est dommage que*   it is too bad that

*il est étonnant que*   it is amazing that

*il est étrange que*   it is strange that

*il est heureux que*   it is fortunate that

*il est honteux que*   it is shameful that

*il est inutile que*   it is useless that

*il est rare que*   it is rare that

*il est regrettable que*   it is regrettable that

*il est surprenant que*   it is surprising that

*il est utile que*   it is useful that

*redouter que*\*   to dread that

*regretter que*   to regret that

*se réjouir que*   to be delighted that

\*These verbs are followed by the *ne* explétif.

**3. Verbs and expressions of doubt, possibility, supposition, and opinion.**

Ex:

*accepter que*   to accept

*s'attendre à ce que*   to expect

*chercher ... qui*\*   to look for

*détester que*   to hate

*douter que*\*\*   to doubt that

*il est convenable que*   it is proper/fitting that

*il est douteux que*\*\*   it is doubtful that

*il est faux que*   it is false that

*il est impossible que*   it is impossible that

*il est improbable que*   it is improbable that

*il est juste que*   it is right/fair that

*il est possible que*   it is possible that

*il est peu probable que*   it is improbable that

*il n'est pas certain que*   it is not certain that

*il n'est pas clair que*   it is not clear that

*il n'est pas évident que*   it is not obvious that

*il n'est pas exact que*   it is not correct that

*il n'est pas probable que*   it is improbable that

*il n'est pas sûr que*   it is not certain that

*il n'est pas vrai que*   it is not true that

*il semble que*   it seems that

*il se peut que*   it may be that

*le fait que*   the fact that

*nier que*\*\*\*   to deny that

*refuser que*   to refuse

*supposer que*   to suppose, hypothesize

\*When you are looking for someone who may not exist, that indicates doubt and therefore requires the subjunctive.

\*\*These do not take the subjunctive when they are used negatively.

\*\*\*When *nier* is in the negative, it's followed by the ne explétif:

**4. A number of French conjunctions require the subjunctive:**

Ex:

*à condition que*   provided that

*à moins que*\*   unless

*à supposer que*   assuming that

*afin que*   so that

*avant que*\*   before

*bien que*   although

*de crainte que*\*   for fear that

*de façon que*   so that, in order that, in such a way that

*de manière que*   so that

*de peur que*\*   for fear that

*de sorte que*   so that

*en admettant que*   assuming that

*en attendant que*   while, until

*encore que*   even though

*jusqu'à ce que*   until

*pour que*   so that

*pourvu que*   provided that

*quoique*   even though

*quoi que*   whatever, no matter what

*sans que*\*   without

\*These conjunctions are followed by the *ne* explétif.

**The following conjunctions do *not* take the subjunctive, because they express facts which**

**are considered certain:**

Ex:

*ainsi que*   just as, so as

*alors que*   while, whereas

*après que*\*\*   after, when

*aussitôt que*\*\*   as soon as

*car*   since, because

*en même temps que*   at the same time that

*depuis que*   since

*dès que*\*\*   as soon as, immediately

*lorsque*\*\* when

*parce que*   because

*pendant que*   while

*plutôt que*   instead of, rather than

*puisque*   since, as

*quand*\*\* when

*tandis que*   while, whereas

*une fois que*\*\*   once

\*\*These conjunctions are followed by the future tense in French, even though in English we use the present tense.

**Il y a des autres emplois aussi...mais je pense que c'est assez pour vous!**

The subjunctive can seem overwhelming, but the thing to remember is the subjunctive = subjectivity, unreality. That should help you figure it out at least 90% of the time.



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